

Whitchurch Town Council

Civic Centre
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FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th JULY 2017

PRESENT

Cllrs: T. Neville, A. Chesters, B. Duffy, J. Martin, J. McAuley, T. O'Neill, C. Smith, A. Hall and L. Broders

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk
Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Council
George Brown – Aldi
Sue McKeon, Peter Allen and Lila Sample – Whitchurch Town Team
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald

1. Apologies

None received

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Smith, it was **WTC/29/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the **15th June 2017** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting

After a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/30/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on **22nd June 2017** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Add Councillor O'Neill to the Civic Centre Committee list of members.
- b. Cllr McAuley not minuted as a member of the Civic Centre Committee.

6. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Neville noted that he had attended the following engagements:
Wednesday 5th July – Whitchurch Girl Guides Barbeque
Wednesday 12th July – Dedication of new ramp at St Alkmund's Church
Thursday 13th July – Hosted a visit of High Sheriff of Shropshire
Saturday 15th July – Ethelston Committee cheque presentations
Saturday 15th July – Opened Bradbury Day Care Centre Fete
Sunday 16th July – Attended Oswestry Mayor's Civic Service

7. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Martin it was **WTC/31/1718 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.

8. Presentation from Aldi

Mr George Brown, Property Director Aldi gave a presentation to Whitchurch Town Council stating that the new shop would cost in the region of £5m and create 40 new jobs.

- a. The Planning Application submitted had gone through a viability and deliverability sequential test.
- b. Mr Brown explained that the Prees Road/Heath Road site was not viable.
- c. Aldi were mindful of the shop's proximity to the canal and had added wood cladding to the rear of the shop and planted trees, which would screen the shop within 10 years.
- d. Aldi are working closely with the Highways Authority.
- e. Aldi have worked with the Town Council in Newport when they built a store on the outskirts of the town. Aldi provided money and the Town Council assisted on where the money should be spent, ie, fingerposts, Town Council grant scheme, sponsorship of town events, shopper bus and contribution towards the pay of a Town Centre Manager. Whitchurch Town Council could do the same.
- f. Aldi believes that by providing a shopper bus to the supermarket they have kept spend in the town.
- g. George Brown stated that the amount of new housing in Whitchurch would put pressure on existing services and Aldi gives the customer a greater choice and more value.
- h. Town Councillors asked questions:
 - i. JS – is the chosen site sequentially the best site in town. In 2009 the Planning Inspector says that there are other sites sequentially better, including the site Aldi owned next door to Homebase.
GB reply – Aldi have looked at other sites in Station Road area.
 - ii. BD – Aldi are providing a shopper bus, but for how many years?
GB reply – Aldi will continue with the shopper bus if it works and brings customers to the door, if customers continue to use the bus Aldi will continue to fund it. Aldi will provide Whitchurch Town Council with the planned route for the bus, the bus is free for shoppers but there will be no commitment to purchase.
 - iii. BD – At the front of the store there is green space, why are no trees planned to be planted?
GB reply – There is a significant gain in planting more trees, if part of the feedback is that more trees are requested, then Aldi will look at the balance between commercial viability and natural habitat.
If Aldi are successful with the planning application we want to add to the town, giving grants, Aldi want to be connected to the town.
 - iv. AH – The strength of market towns is that there are no retail outlets on the outskirts, Aldi on the planned site is not good for the town.
GB – Aldi will support the town centre.
 - v. CS – Canal users will want to stop and shop at Aldi – if boaters go onto the next stop boaters will have to cross the main road. Can you put in moorings?
GB – This had been a suggestion from the Canal & River Trust too, but feedback from local businesses was that if you put moorings at the back of the store this will stop people from walking into town.

- vi. AC - The planning application states enhancements to Wrexham Road site entrance to the store, and from the pictures no enhancements are visible. There should be a filter lane coming off the roundabout.
GB – A full safety audit has taken place, the 30mph limit will be ground out to the roundabout.
- vii. LB – Have all sites elsewhere in the town been exhausted?
GB – Aldi have done the exercise and believe they have addressed every question with regard to other sites in the town.
- viii. JM – When landscaping the front of the store, could Aldi consider trees with different colours – gold/red – to provide a colourful display.
GB – Aldi will reissue to Whitchurch Town Council plans for landscaping using a variety of trees.

9. Presentation from Whitchurch Town Team

Sue McKeon and Peter Allen from Whitchurch Town Team gave a presentation on the Community Led Plan refresh, stating the key areas are:

- Residential land
- Employment land
- Green spaces and corridors
- Improved resources

Key areas for further work are:

- Utility infrastructure
- Planning – do not restrict to within the by-pass
- Housing – lack of small start-up homes
- Green space retention and protection of wildlife corridors
- Employment land
- Leisure provision – retention of existing facilities
- Medical provision – working with the current team to improve provision
- School provision – more senior provision needed, ie 'A' Levels
- Railway – exploit the railway connections
- Town centre – working with empty shop landlords
- General:
 - Broadband speed
 - Appearance of roundabouts – public art

The plan is a vision of how the community will look in the future and Whitchurch Town Team wish to work with Whitchurch Town Council and others to develop the future of the town.

CS – Tourism – Whitchurch Town Team and Whitchurch Town Council look together at tourist developments, especially the shortage of visitor bed spaces.

10. Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Dakin reported>

- that he had spoken to Shropshire Council Leader Peter Nutting regarding the Tilstock Road development scheme. PN would like to meet with Whitchurch Town Council and the Head of Economic Development and Town Team members on one afternoon.
- Shropshire Council will publish the Parking Strategy consultation on 21st July for 10 weeks, all Councillors are encouraged to complete the consultation.
Q. Will the money gained by higher parking charges come back into the town?
A. No, but it may help to keep the swimming pool open.

- Q. Is there any update on the new medical centre?
A. No, the GPs are working together on the project.

After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was **WTC/32/1718 RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

11. BT Fibre Cabinet.

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was **WTC/33/1718 RESOLVED** to allow BT Carillion to install the fibre cabinet at the front of the Civic Centre on the right-hand side.

12. Correspondence

None received.

13. Outstanding Council Resolutions

- (a) **Civic Centre Freehold** – emails had been sent to Steve Law and Neil Willcox, no response received to date.
- (b) **Skateboard Park** – desk based research will be undertaken to understand whether the land is contaminated.
- (c) **Increased Town Centre Signage** – a review of the current town centre signage is required. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/34/1718 RESOLVED** that the Town Council staff should carry out the work to review the current signage in the town centre.

14. Future Medical Provision

No further update.

15. Month 3 Accounts

The Chairman of Finance, Cllr Chesters noted that CIL Neighbourhood Fund is now an asset with a 5 year timescale to spend.

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was **WTC/35/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the accounts as presented.

16. Report from Members on Outside Organisations

Cllr McAuley had attended the Chamber of Trade AGM, and reports that the Chair is Therese Hickland, Secretary Jayne Griffiths and Assistant Secretary Daniel Thelwell. The President is Hilary Seward.

17. Elect Members to Outside Bodies

The following Councillors were nominated to sit on outside bodies:

GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE
Town Twinning	Cllr T Neville
Whitchurch Chamber of Trade	Cllr McAuley
Whitchurch Waterways Trust	Cllr T O'Neill
Fair Trade	Cllr T O'Neill
Queensway Playing Fields	Cllr T O'Neill
Beechtree Community Centre	Cllr C Smith
Higginson's Church of England School	Cllr C Smith
Samuel Higginson Almshouse	Cllr C Smith
Jane Higginson Charity	Cllr C Smith
Jane Higginson Almshouse Charity	Cllr C Smith

Town Team	Cllrs: Duffy & Smith
Whitchurch Relief in Need	Cllr O'Neill
Local Joint Committee	Cllr Smith / Deputy Cllr Duffy
Joint Cemetery Board	Cllr T O'Neill/Cllr L Broders
Joint Commissioning & Economic Board	Cllr J Sinnott
Markets & Events Group	Cllr T O'Neill
Whitchurch Patients Group	Cllr B Duffy

18. Standing Orders Amendment

- a. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Smith, it was **WTC/36/1718 RESOLVED** to add the legal resignation process to Standing Orders.
- b. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/37/1718 RESOLVED** to amend Standing Order 8 to clarify the election of the Chairman of Full Council.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/38/1718 RESOLVED** to accept amend Standing Order 30b. to read:
 "The Mayor and Deputy Mayor (ex-officio) shall be a member of every Committee but cannot vote. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor can be appointed onto a Committee by Council, but they should not automatically be Chair or Vice Chair."

19. Terms of Reference

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was **WTC/39/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

- a. Full Council
- b. Parks & Public Realm Committee
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Civic Centre Committee

20. New Calendar of Meetings

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/40/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the new Council and Committee Calendar of meetings.

21. Appoint Councillors to Committees

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **WTC/41/1718 RESOLVED** that the following Councillors were appointed to Committees:

- a. Parks & Public Realm Committee: Cllr Hall
- b. Finance Committee: Cllr Broders
- c. Civic Centre Committee: Cllr McAuley, Cllr Neville, Cllr Hall, Cllr O'Neill
- d. Personnel Committee: Cllr McAuley, Cllr O'Neill, Cllr Smith, Cllr Broders, Cllr Sinnott
- e. Planning Committee: Cllr Hall
- f. Governance, Policy & Scrutiny Committee: remove Cllr Bev Duffy

22. Review Sample Material for Signage in the Park

Samples of signage material were distributed and after a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/42/1718 RESOLVED** to proceed with the sample from Signs of the Times to develop the signage for Jubilee Park.

23. Public Consultation on Jubilee Park Play Area Extension

All Councillors noted that a public consultation will take place between 7th August to 11th August in the Civic Centre foyer.

24. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/43/1718 RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1060, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

25. Complaint from A Finch

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/44/1718 RESOLVED** that the matter had been reviewed by Council and, following discussion, the Clerk was requested to draft a letter for the Mayor’s signature as requested.

26. Complaint from J Conner

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/45/1718 RESOLVED** that following a discussion Councillors reaffirmed their decision, and that this was a final decision, and the Clerk should draft a letter as instructed.

27. Councillor Email Addresses

After a proposal from Cllr Broders, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/46/1718 RESOLVED** that Cllr Broders will look at the matter and bring to next Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....